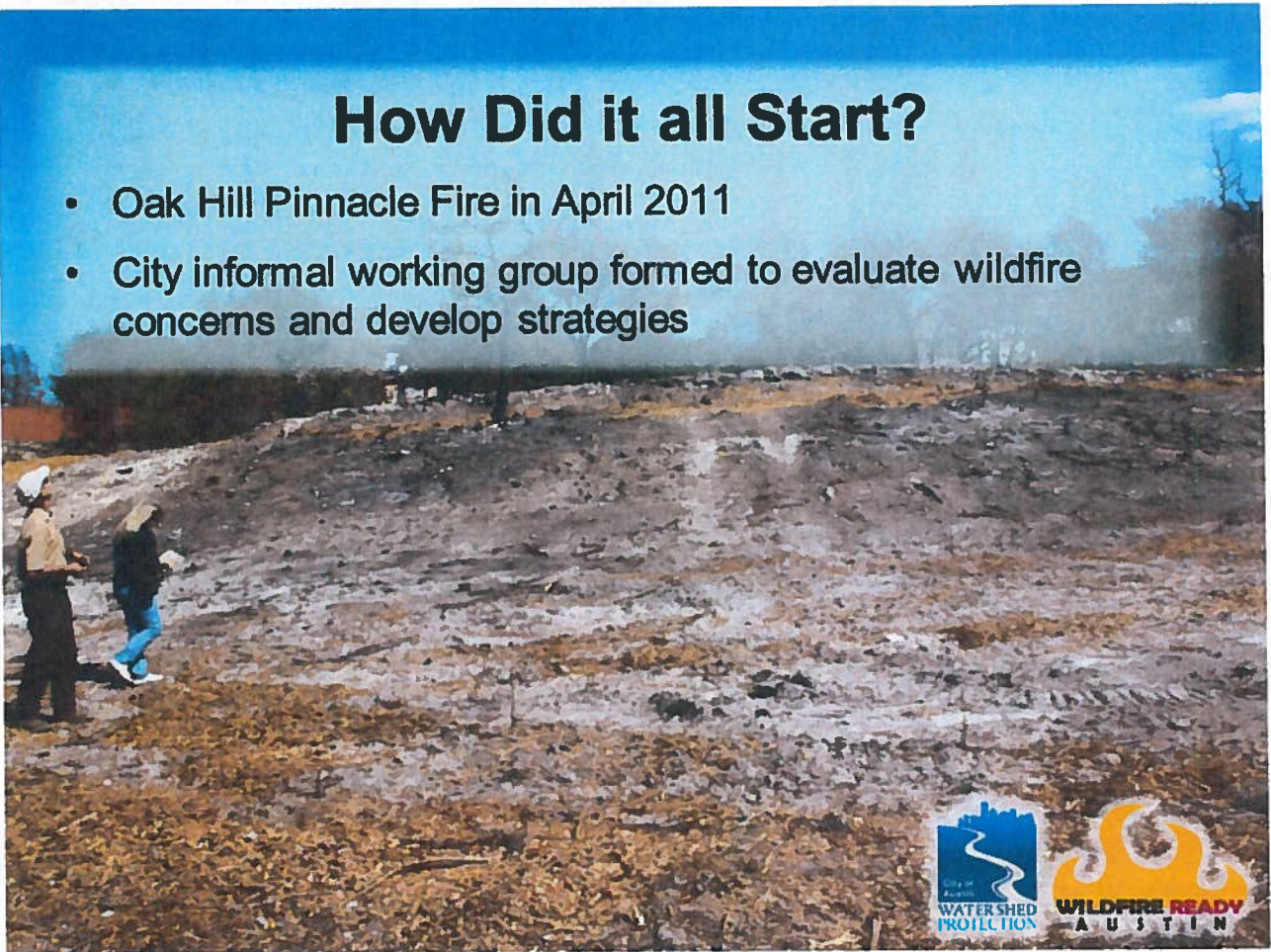


HELPING AUSTIN BECOME A FIRE-ADAPTED COMMUNITY



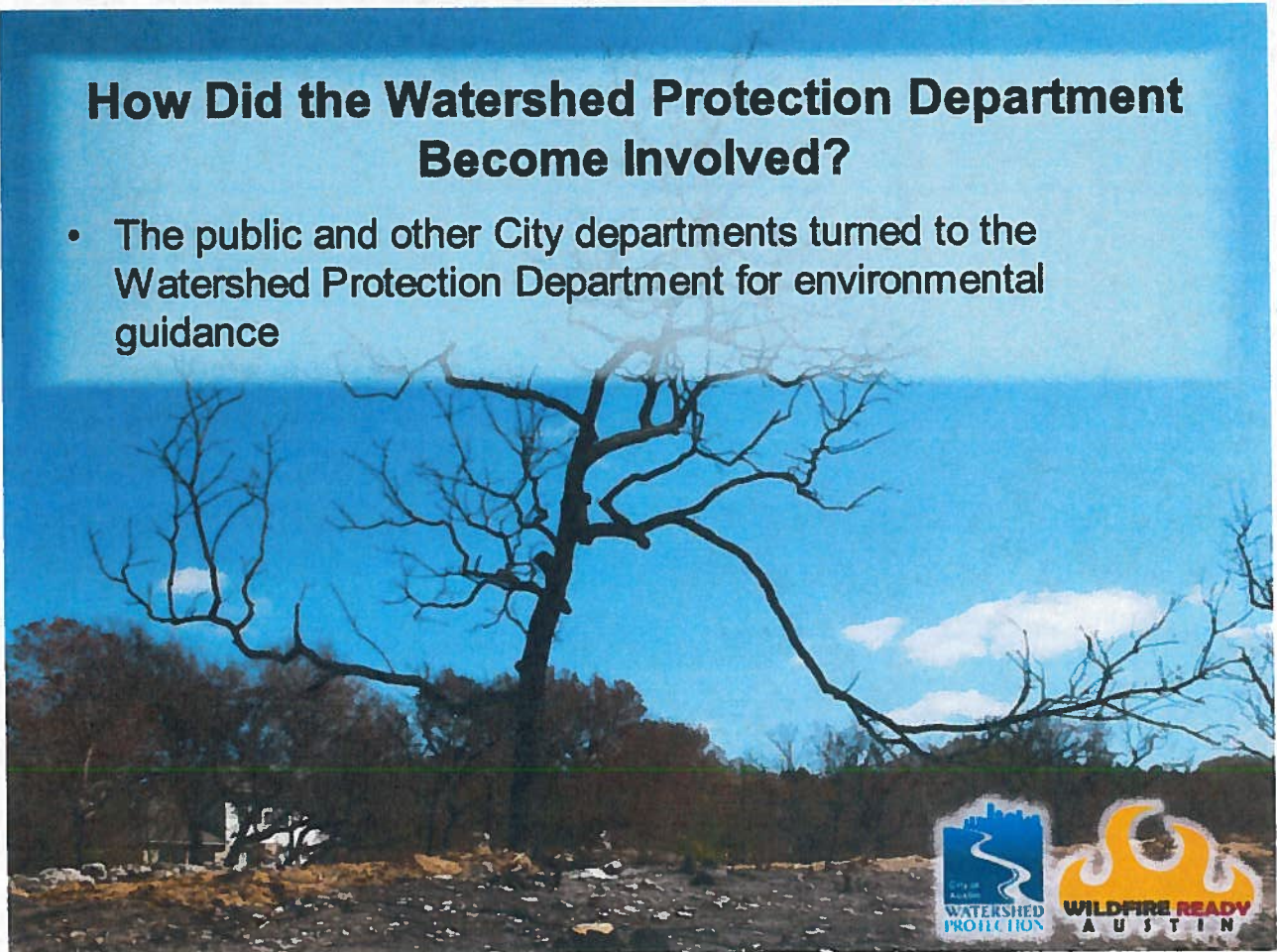
How Did it all Start?

- Oak Hill Pinnacle Fire in April 2011
- City informal working group formed to evaluate wildfire concerns and develop strategies



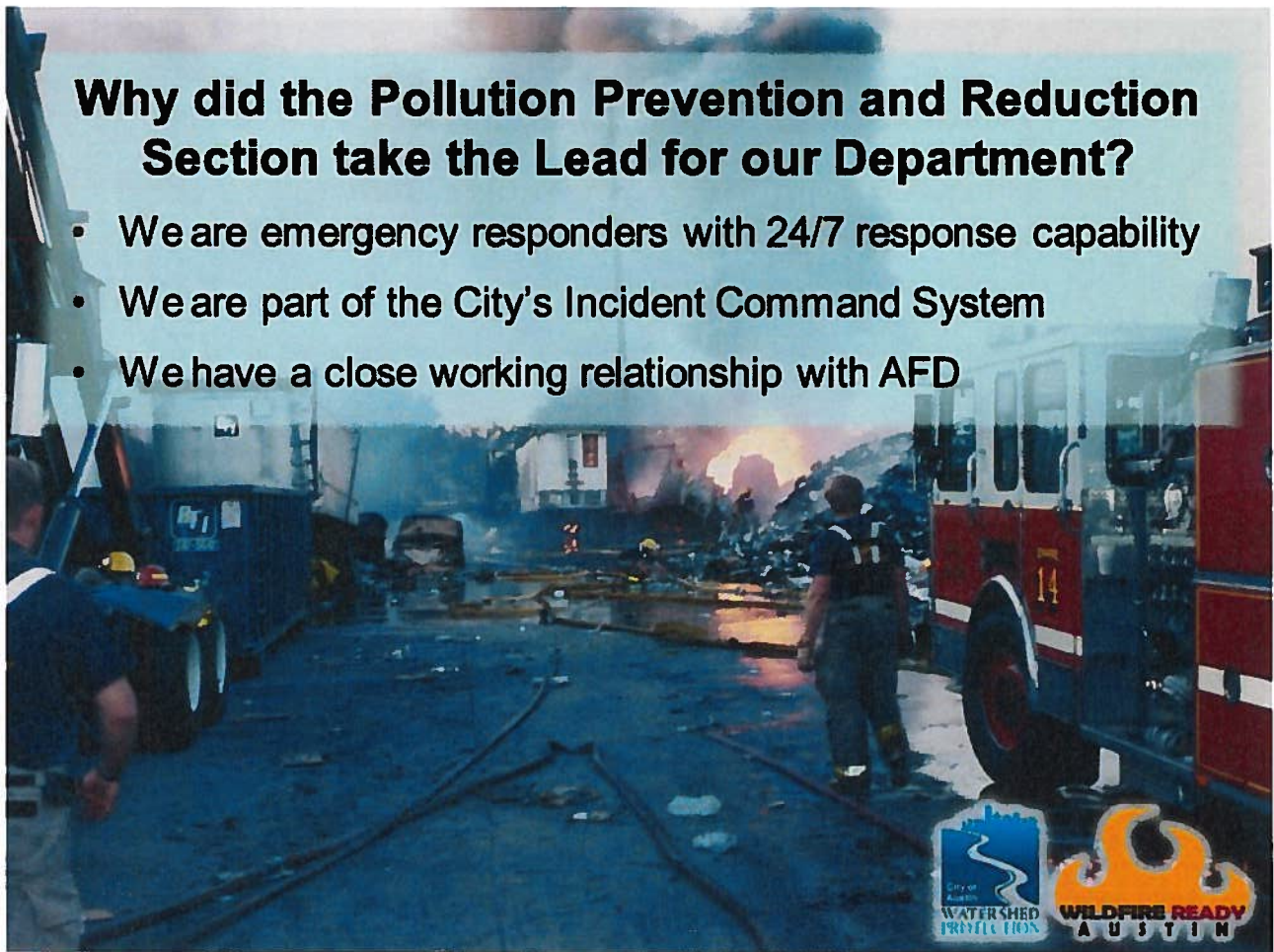
How Did the Watershed Protection Department Become Involved?

- The public and other City departments turned to the Watershed Protection Department for environmental guidance



Why did the Pollution Prevention and Reduction Section take the Lead for our Department?

- We are emergency responders with 24/7 response capability
- We are part of the City's Incident Command System
- We have a close working relationship with AFD



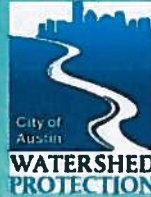
How Did the Wildland Fire Task Force get Started?

- The informal working group recommended that City Hall initiate a formal wildland fire task force
- The City Manager approved the recommendation
- AFD was designated as the lead department



Who are the Task Force Members?

- The Task Force comprises stakeholders from several City and County departments



Public Information Office



What is the Task Force Vision?

- To be a Fire-Adapted Community
"A community of informed and prepared citizens that collaboratively take action to safely co-exist with wildland fire"



What Are the Task Force Goals?

- Protect life and property
- Improve public awareness of wildfire related issues
- Create partnerships and implementation
- Enhance emergency services
- Preserve natural systems



What Are the Task Force Objectives?

The Task Force is organized into three subcommittees:

- Prevention / Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Each subcommittee has its own list of objectives





What has WPD Contributed?

- Knowledge and Expertise:
 - Research and evaluate environmental methods and practices
 - Monitor recovery of local 2011 wildfire sites
 - Attend workshops and trainings



What has WPD Contributed?

- Response to Post-Fire Public Concerns:
 - Evaluate environmental impacts
 - Sample and analyze water quality
 - Review fire fighting chemicals
 - Plan erosion, sedimentation, and ash controls
 - Collaborate with other environmental experts
 - Plan remediation and waste disposal



What has WPD Contributed?

- Response to Pre-Fire Public Concerns:
 - Riparian Grow-Zone
 - Hill Country Roadway Corridor
 - Karst Preserve



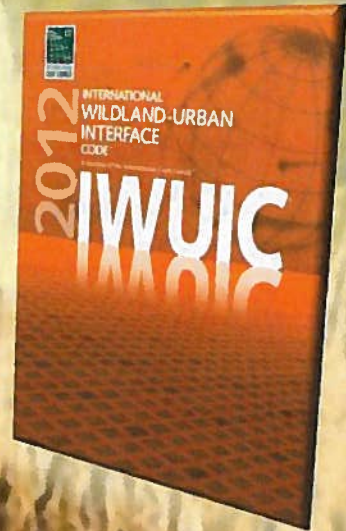
What has WPD Contributed?

- Public Education Guidance Document:
 - Environmental Best Management Practices that provide guidance on property management before and after a wildfire



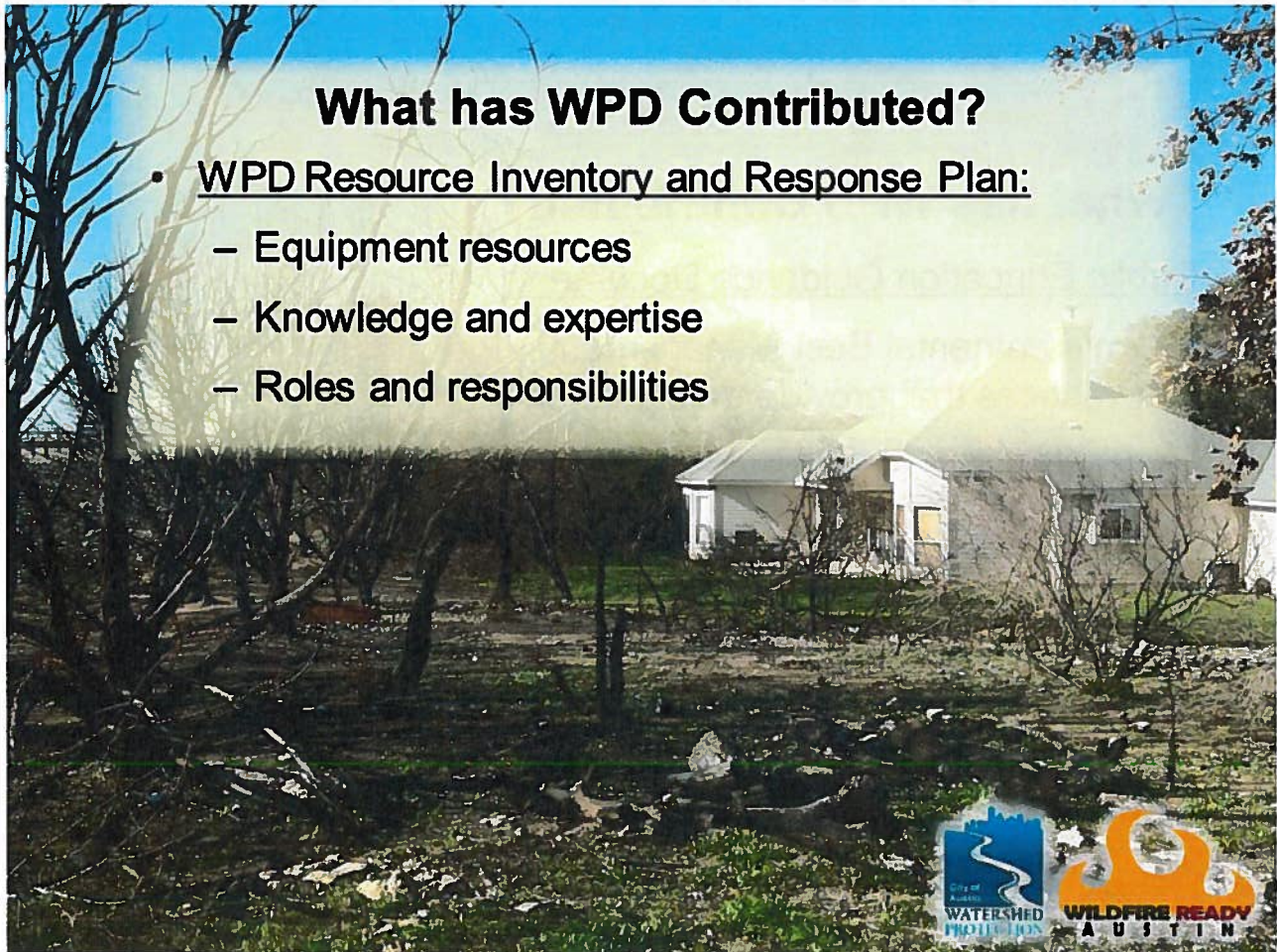
What has WPD Contributed?

- Review and comment on proposed International Wildland Urban Interface Code adoption



What has WPD Contributed?

- WPD Resource Inventory and Response Plan:
 - Equipment resources
 - Knowledge and expertise
 - Roles and responsibilities



What has WPD Contributed?

- Wildland Fire Resource Survey:
 - Identify ancillary wildfire expertise and resources outside those typically provided by the primary public safety agencies
 - Develop contact list



What Next?

In the Works:

- Fine-tune WPD's Resource Inventory and Response Plan
- Compile Ancillary Resource Survey Data
- Obtain Task Force approval of WPD's "Understanding Wildfire Risk Near Austin's Creeks" (Grow Zone educational document)
- Finalize layout, print, and distribute Environmental BMPs public education document
- Continue monitoring environmental recovery at local fire sites
- Host "Firewise Landscaping" training for professional landscapers.
- Recommend additional criteria for the Hill Country Roadway Ordinance.



What Next?

Future Possibilities:

- Continue to develop training materials / workshops on environmentally-responsible wildfire preparedness and recovery techniques
- Integrate “wildfire fuel reduction” projects with “environmental enhancement” projects



The Mission Continues!

WPD's Overall Wildfire Mission:

- Be ready for the next wildfire
- Promote environmental values when addressing wildfire management

